

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

As a private citizen, a former TV News Anchor, a radio talk show host, and now business owner and executive, I am deeply troubled by the current FCC direction for the de-regulation of our nation's airwaves and the allowance of severe corporate media consolidation.

If these trends and rulings are not reversed and stopped local and community coverage is continually lost and the evident danger (Fox News, Media Corp, etc.) is readily seen in bias and distortion of journalistic coverage like I have never seen before in my lifetime.